Use of Cultivable Land for Agricultural Purpose

2917. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of total cultivable land not under use, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have any scheme to make use of the total cultivable land for agricultural purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the amount allocated to each State in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) State-wise percentage of total cultivable land not in use (culturable wastelands) is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 73]

(b) to (d) The Department of Agriculture & Co-operation is implementing various schemes for the development culturable waste lands in the country. State-wise details of the schemes and amount released during 1999-2000 is annexed.

Food Processing Industries

2918. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a policy for expansion and development of Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when would the scheme be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN) : (a) and (b) The task of formulation of Food Processing Policy is under way. Broadly the Policy would cover issues relating to availability of raw material, backward linkages, processing facilities, including post harvest infrastructure, packaging, food quality and safety, marketing of products—domestic and export, awareness about processed foods and fiscal incentives.

(c) As wide ranging consultations would be required with the State Government and other inter-related Departments of Government of India, it is difficult to indicate a time-frame within which policy will be finalized.